

The Pony Express

short but proud history

By Joseph T. Liddell
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When a remark like, "The Pony Express was faster" pops up after 120 years, some permanent recognition seems due the long-faded, short-lived carrier.

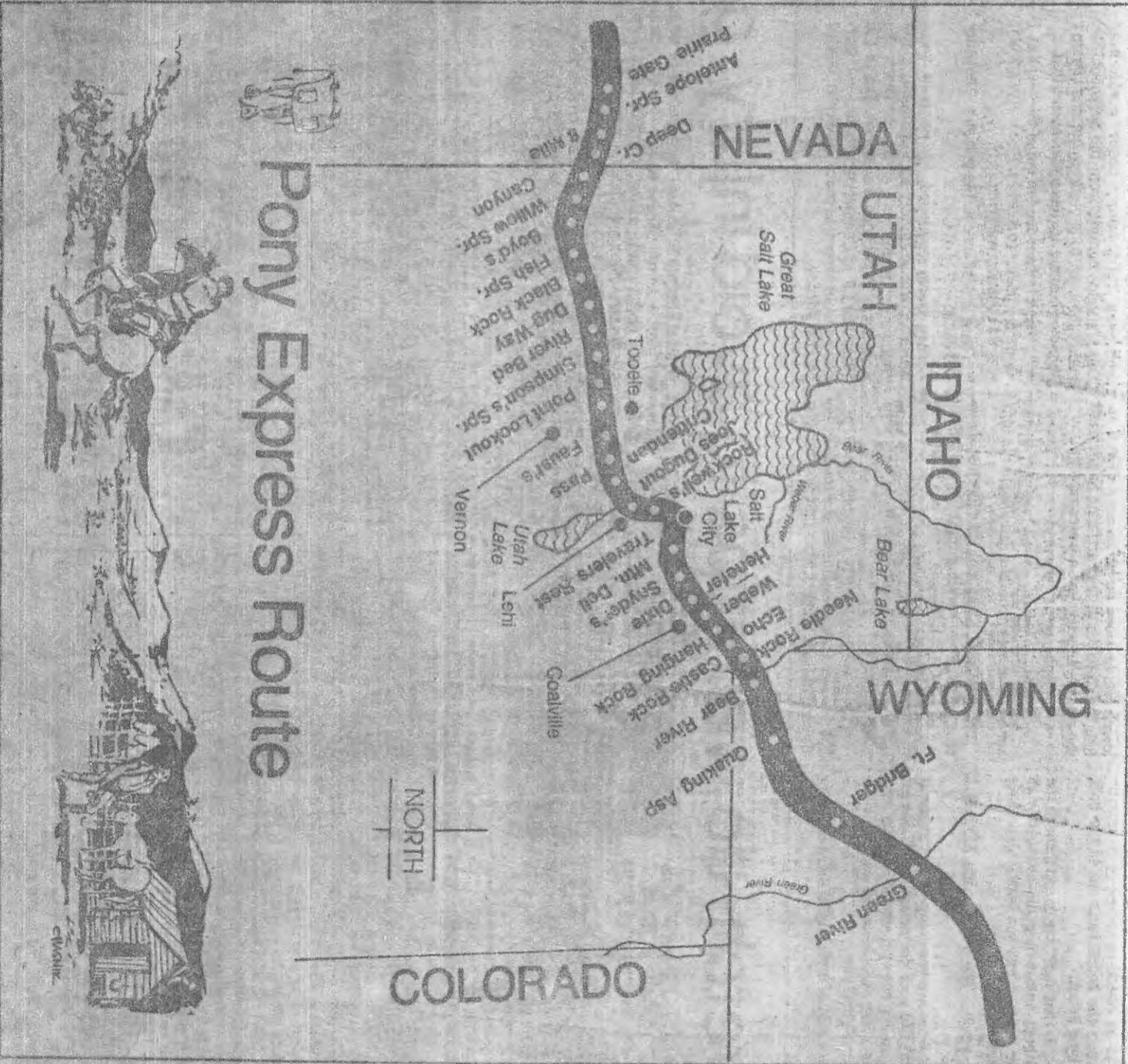
The Pony Express galloped into American history with gusto in 1860 and 18 months later, in 1861, loped off into oblivion, the archives show. Few things have lived on as lively in the memories of succeeding generations of Americans.

The oft-spoken Pony Express promptness reappeared again in New Jersey not long ago. It occurred in drama over the three weeks a birthday package mailed from Utah took to reach its East Coast destination.

By comparison, the Pony Express carried mail from Missouri via horseback to California in only eight days in the early 1860s. The ponies raced west and east through Utah regularly. Their speed and their riders' bravery won enduring fame despite their being a slow runner with today's jet airmail.

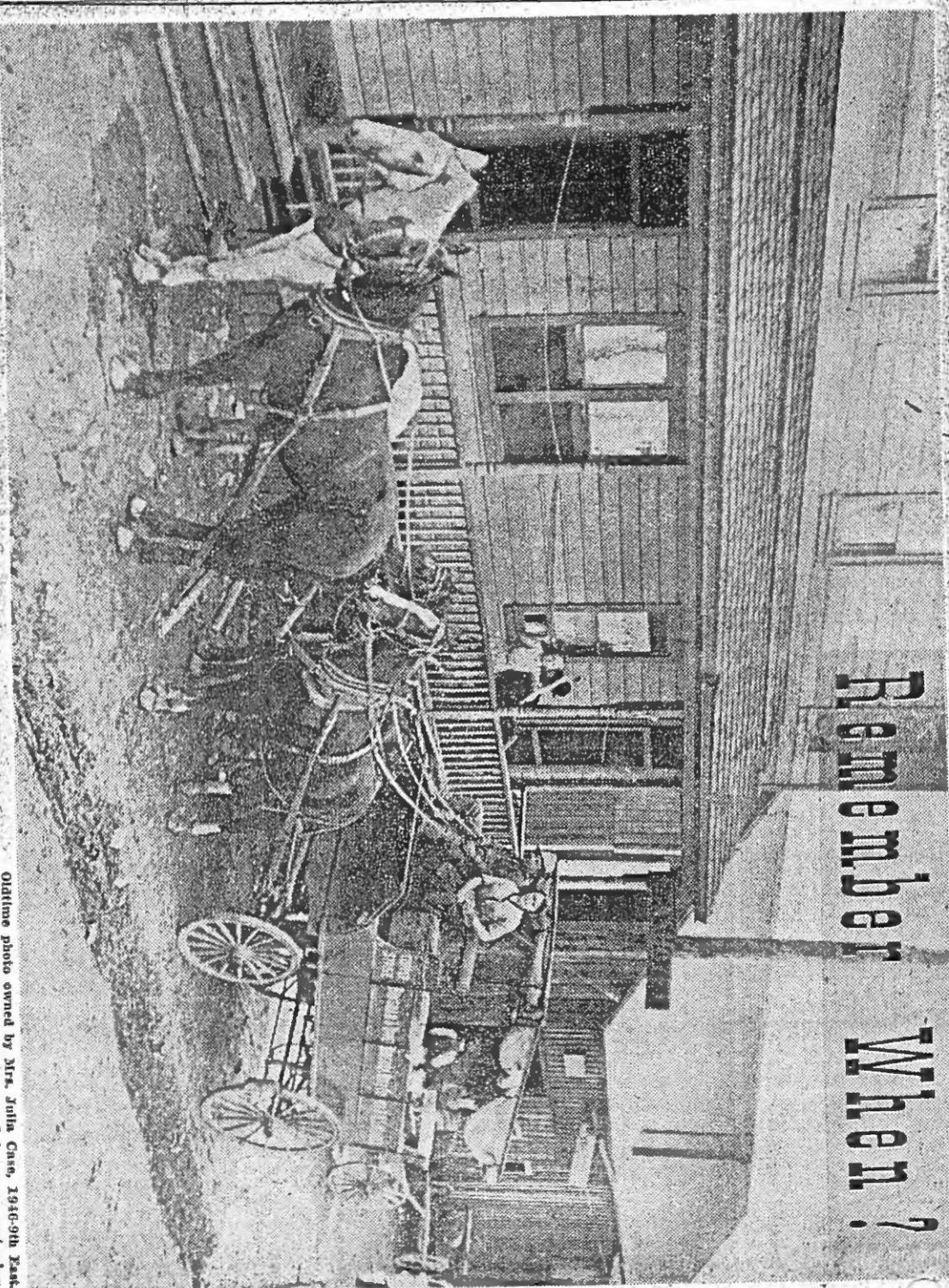
Utahns and Americans aren't the only people fascinated over the frontier-age express system. Even some Europeans float the thoughts of it intriguing. A young Swedish couple rode horseback into Salt Lake City in October 1961. They rode the Pony Express trail throughout, snapping photographs of the prairies and mountains' beauty, then wrote about it with plans to publish their work later.

Pony Express Route



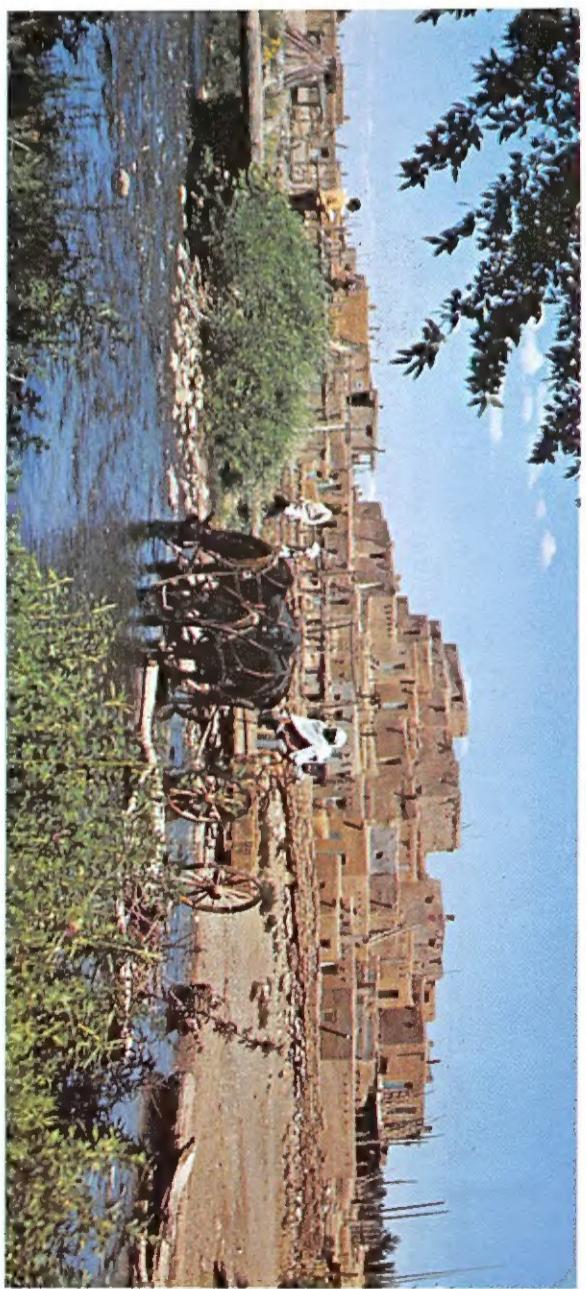
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Remember When?



Fair weather or foul, this "clipper stage" linked Bingham canyon with the "outside." From Bingham depot to Lower Bingham fare was 50c; to Upper Bingham, 75c. Four horses were common on stage lines then, but on the clipper, extra speed wasn't important as extra pull on steep canyon grade. Passengers mounted in rear, sat alone the sides facing the center of the wagon box. On stormy days, canvas sides could be lowered for passengers' comfort, but drivers were exposed to wind and weather. Stage line lasted until about 1913.

Oklahoma photo owned by Mrs. Julia Cast, 1946-9th East.



Some of the Indian pueblos in the Southwest were the first apartment houses in the country. This one is located near Taos, New Mexico. In early days the pueblos were entered through holes in the roof.

